

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): An optical table comprising in height order: a top skin, an upper ~~vibration isolating core~~, an intermediate skin, a lower ~~vibration isolating core~~, and a bottom skin, wherein the upper ~~vibration isolating core~~ and the lower ~~vibration isolating core~~ provide rigidity to the optical table have substantially similar structures.
2. (Original): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate skin comprises two sheets bonded together.
3. (Currently Amended): An optical table according to claim 1, further comprising a spacer layer arranged under the top skin and separated from the upper ~~vibration isolating core~~ by a midskin.
4. (Currently Amended): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the upper ~~vibration isolating core~~ and the lower ~~vibration isolating core~~ is made of formed steel.
5. (Currently Amended): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the upper ~~vibration isolating core~~ and the lower ~~vibration isolating core~~ is made of composite material.
6. (Currently Amended): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the upper ~~vibration isolating core~~ and the lower ~~vibration isolating core~~ is aluminum honeycomb.
7. (Original): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the table has a thickness from top skin to bottom skin in excess of at least one of the group of 310, 460 and 600 mm.

8. (Currently Amended): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the top skin, upper ~~vibration isolating~~ core and intermediate skin form a first subassembly and the intermediate skin, lower ~~vibration isolating~~ core and bottom skin form a second subassembly, and each of the first and second subassemblies has a thickness less than at least one of the group of 350 mm, 300 mm and 250 mm.

9. (Original): An optical table system comprising an optical table according to claim 1 arranged on a plurality of supporting legs.

10. (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing an optical table comprising: making at least two subassemblies, wherein each subassembly is made by bonding a ~~vibration isolating~~ core to upper and lower skins, wherein the ~~vibration isolating~~ cores provide rigidity to the subassembly, and wherein the cores of the at least two subassemblies have substantially similar structures; and

bonding the subassemblies together to form the optical table.

11. (Original): A method according to claim 10, wherein the bonding between the subassemblies is performed using a cold cure adhesive.

12. (Original): A method according to claim 10, wherein the bonding between the subassemblies is performed using a hot cure adhesive.

13. (Currently Amended): An optical table formed of at least two subassemblies bonded together, each subassembly comprising a ~~vibration isolating~~ core bonded to upper and lower skins, wherein the lower skin of one subassembly is bonded to the upper skin of another subassembly arranged below it.

14. (New): An optical table according to claim 3, wherein the spacer layer provides space for peanuts.

15. (New): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the upper core and the lower core are composed of different materials from the group consisting of formed steel, a composite, and an aluminum honeycomb.

16. (New): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the upper core and the lower core have different thickness from the group of thicknesses consisting of about 155 mm, about 230 mm, about 250 mm, and about 300 mm.

17. (New): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the top skin has a two dimensional grid of threaded holes.

18. (New): A method according to claim 10 wherein each core in the at least two subassemblies is composed of a material from the group consisting of formed steel, a composite, and an aluminum honeycomb, and wherein at least two cores in the at least two subassemblies are composed of a different material.

19. (New): A method according to claim 10, wherein each core in the at least two subassemblies has a thickness of about 155 mm, about 230 mm, about 250 mm, and about 300 mm, and wherein at least two cores in the at least two subassemblies have different thicknesses.

20. (New): A method according to claim 10, wherein only one upper skin of one subassembly has a two dimensional grid of threaded holes.